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3 January 1978

NEAR
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TRANSLATIONS ON NEAR EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

No. 1745

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IRAN

VIEWS OF PRESIDENT SADAT'S VISIT TO ISRAEL

Teheran FYI IRAN POLITICAL DIGEST in English 4 Dec 77 pp 2-8

[Text] Iran was stunned by news that President Sadat was to visit Jerusalem for talks with Israeli Premier Menachin Begin and an address at the Israeli parliament in Jerusalem. Public imagination in Iran was captured as much as in the rest of the world; the news of the visit equally over-shadowed all other news.

Iranian media coverage of the visit was complete; with news and comments before, during and after the event. The present report surveys the Iranian views that have emerged on the visit, in the following parts:

- I. Views on Mid-East Solution
- II. Views on President Sadat's Initiative
- III. Views on Outcome of the Visit

I. Views on Mid-East Crisis Solution

Since the Arab-Israeli war of June 1967 during which Israel occupied Arab territories, Iran has constantly called for an Israeli withdrawal. In fact the Shahanshah was the first national leader in the world to condemn the forcible occupation by Israeli forces of Arab lands during the 1967 War. That was at a time when Teheran and Cairo had no diplomatic ties (broken since President Nasser had broken it off after charging Iran of having diplomatic ties with Israel).

Despite propaganda attacks by Nasser, Iran had always supported the Egyptian and other Arab causes in the Middle East and had voted at international bodies in favour of the Arabs. During the 1967 War, Iran believed that far from solving any problem, war adds to them. In view of the delicate situation and the importance of the Middle East, war in the region also raised the possibility of outside intervention, especially by the superpowers.

This, however, did not apply to the Ramadan War of 1973 which led to a relative Egyptian victory because it ended quickly and it ended in the destruction of Israeli army's invincibility. Iranians praised that war especially as by then relations between Teheran and Cairo had been resumed and had become very friendly but also because Iran believed that it forced Israeli fanatics to give more thought to a peaceful solution to their relations with the Arabs.

Throughout all this, Iran's stand concerning Israeli withdrawal from occupied territories remained firm though there were minor changes in their manifestation. These were:

1. As Iranian relations with Egypt developed and expanded, Iranian support for the Arab position and cause became more outspoken and stronger.
2. With the improvement in Iran's relations with Syria and the establishment of friendly relations between Teheran and Baghdad (after mediation by Algeria) broadened the Iranian support for the Arab position throughout the Middle East.
3. While relations remained strained with radical Arab regimes of Libya and South Yemen, Iranian relations improved with the Palestine Liberation Organization. Iran declared that the PLO was the sole representative of the people of Palestine; that the Middle East crisis could not be resolved without solving the Palestinian problem. Iran called for the inclusion of PLO in all negotiations aiming to resolve the Middle East problem.
4. Despite such increasing support, Iran did not go along with the Arab oil embargo of 1973 against the West. Iran has always maintained that it was improper to apply such weapons against the West especially the United States as they could make a positive contribution to the solution of the Middle East. At the same time, Iran called on the West and especially the United States to show greater appreciation of the role of such moderate Arab leaders as President Sadat and to bring greater pressure to bear on Israel to abandon its obstinacy, which only hardened Arab attitudes and helped strengthen the more radical Arab regimes.
5. Iran argued against the Israeli thesis of 'secure borders' as this was meaningless in view of modern weaponry. Iran believed that a lasting settlement with the Arab neighbours, and if necessary strengthened by international guarantees, would more securely ensure the safety of the state of Israel than any so-called 'secure border.'

Iran also believes that time is against Israel; that Israeli obstinacy merely isolates it more and more on the international scene and that unless the Israelis change their attitude, even such staunch friends and supporters as the United States would not be able to endorse their position. Furthermore, the Israeli attitude helps to keep the Middle East in ferment and would lead to the spread of international communism as well as chauvinism. Any pressure on moderate Arab governments would ultimately work against Israel as well.

6. Iran looked favourably on Kissinger's step-by-step policy but when this policy bogged down, Iran supported Cairo and Damascus in their call for resumption of the Geneva Conference. Iran appreciated the position of all front-line countries and the effect this had on their national economies. It extended financial and other help to them.

7. While establishing greater friendship with all front-line governments, especially since the 1973 war, Iran's fair position is also appreciated by Israel because Iran has stated that all countries of the area must be able to live behind safe and recognised borders. Iran has contributed to the United Nations peace-keeping force on the Golan Heights. Iran is thus one of the few countries in the world whose attitude and views towards the Middle East are appreciated by both sides.

II. Views on President Sadat's Initiative

While at first Iranians were stunned by the news of President Sadat's intention to visit Israel, the general view was one of complete support for the initiative. Unlike the Arabs who have been directly involved with the Israelis for the past three decades and who have developed an antipathy towards Jews, Iranians have no such feelings and therefore they welcomed President Sadat's initiative. They were stunned momentarily simply because the very idea had sounded so inconceivable only a week before.

As if to underline this, the daily RASTAKHIZ recalled on 20 November 1977 that President Sadat had been asked 7 years earlier, upon becoming president of Egypt, if he would recognise the Jewish state. He had said 'Never,' that his people would crush anyone who tried to take such a decision. RASTAKHIZ said that President Sadat's attitude began to mellow over the years. For instance, after the 1973 war, there was a time when he prophesized that after the end of enmity between Israel and the Arabs, Egypt's relations with Israel might become 'like those with America or China.' Finally, it recalled President Sadat's bombshell of the week before, that he was prepared to seek peace everywhere and to go even to the Knesset to talk about peace.

What made such a visit improbable, was that despite mellowing of Egyptian position, the Israelis had hardened their own attitude, especially with the coming of the Likkud Party to power. In view of this, President Sadat's visit to Jerusalem was considered in Teheran to have been more historic than even President Nixon's visit to Peking, and equal in importance to man's first landing on the moon.

Iran's first official reaction came in a statement by the Shahanshah during an interview given to American media. He said he would pray that this visit would contribute to peace. If the visit yielded results and helped the cause of peace, it would certainly be one of the greatest events since World War II. At that time, it was too early to comment on the outcome as it depended on the realism and greater flexibility on the Israeli part, and full support for President Sadat on the Arab part.

Iranian political and press circles were aware of the difficulties on both these counts, and therefore expressed some concern about possible outcome and especially repercussions among other Arab countries. The daily ETTELA'AT warned on 19 November that according to Teheran political circles, his visit to Israel was his last trump card in his bid for peace. If he did not win the round, certain developments might be awaiting in the Middle East region. While the move itself was clear its consequences were uncertain. The outcome of President Sadat's political gamble was the more uncertain because of the hostile opposition it had raised in other countries and including some in Egypt.

Most of the Iranian press comments, especially those by radio and television, supported President Sadat's initiative. Many Iranians watched with fascination and pleasure the live coverage of the president's arrival in Israel. On 20 November, RASTAKHIZ's political commentator ("Jahangir") wrote: "They (the Israelis) have gained something for which they had yearned for 30 years but this could not be said about the Arab countries.... This task of President Sadat's is much more difficult than expelling the Soviet experts or even the starting of the October War.... Sadat has embarked on a courageous mission and needs maximum support, but the greatest support he can get is Israeli understanding.... It is clear that Begin will never depart from his basic course for the sake of a visit from Sadat.... While Begin may return all occupied Egyptian soil, he will not give up Jerusalem or all occupied Arab territories..."

Another commentator, writing in the same issue, repeated a comment by the Iranian television on the evening of President Sadat's arrival in Jerusalem that the president had risked his entire political career. It was a gamble in which both sides either won or lost. A loss could well lead to an explosion; while a win could save not only Egypt but the entire Middle East from another war.

Thus, Teheran hoped for more than a "partial success" for President Sadat in his initiative. A partial success was seen as an understanding confined to Israel and Egypt alone, even if it meant a separate peace treaty between them. This was because Iranian observers believed that a separate peace treaty would bring about inter-Arab confrontation by pitching other Arabs, from Libya to Saudi Arabia, against Egypt. While Arabs could not wage war with Israel without Egypt, Egypt would not wage peace with Israel without other Arabs.

In view of this, Iranians believed that Israel should respond to the visit by an equally imaginative and bold measure. President Sadat's speech at the Israeli parliament in which he raised all Arab demands including PLO recognition, did not allay Iranian commentators' anxiety. A television commentator remarked that while President Sadat's proposals were concise and clear, Begin and other Israeli leaders had confined themselves to generalities. Obviously many more such contacts would be necessary.

The need for further contacts brought optimism to Teheran. There was no further talk of the political "gamble"; Arab opposition was minimized in press reports and comments. RASTAKHIZ said on 27 November, that his visit should be seen as the logical consequence of President Sadat's policy that started with the expulsion of the Soviet experts and led to the relative Egyptian victory in the 1973 war.

The disappearance of anxiety in Teheran and the more pronounced support for the Sadat visit coincided with growing support for him in many Arab countries as well, especially in Saudi Arabia and Persian Gulf emirates.

Mr Fereidun Hoveyda, the Iranian delegate to the United Nations, spoke of Iran's strong desire to see the Geneva peace conference resumed, with the Palestinian participation. He said that President Sadat's visit to Israel had facilitated such peace talks, but no peace would be possible without Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territories. (It should be noted that Mr Hoveyda made no direct reference to PLO.) When President Sadat spoke before the Egyptian parliament after his return from Israel, NIRT radio-television commentator noted that President Sadat had referred to Palestinians and not to PLO, whose position is now closer to that of Syria and other radical Arab governments.

III. Views on Outcome of Visit

Even from the beginning it was obvious that certain problems would be inevitable after the visit. Iranian diplomatic circles had prepared themselves for any possible assistance they could give to overcome diplomatic problems. While not directly involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict, Iran nonetheless is very closely associated with the Arab countries and is within the same region.

Iranian diplomacy embarked on full support for the president of Egypt in his continued efforts towards a general peace. Subsequent events convinced the Iranian diplomacy that the Soviets were encouraging a "rejection front." Evidence of this came following the visit of Syrian Foreign Minister Khaddam, to Moscow; the "spontaneous" demonstrations in many countries (including in Teheran!) and the gathering of the radical regimes. Iranians were pleased to note that President Sadat had not been deterred by such things and that he still worked for a general peace with all Arabs, and not with Egypt alone.

Obviously, since the Soviet Union is the co-chairman of the Geneva Conference, its attitude and that of many other Arab countries, is seen in Teheran as indicating that the Geneva peace conference may not be resumed in the near future.

CSO: 4820

IRAN

TEHERAN PRESS, WESTERN DEMOCRACY DISCUSSED

Teheran FYI IRAN POLITICAL DIGEST in English 27 Nov 77 pp 11-12

[Text] In recent months more and more articles and comments have appeared in Teheran newspapers and periodicals underlining the shortcomings and defects of Western democracies and Western leadership.

On several occasions the Shahanshah has criticized the manifestations and effects of Western democracy, pointing out that no Western-type democracy could be suited to Iranian conditions. In a message to the Majlis on the 71st anniversary of the Iranian Constitution, the Shahanshah said on 5 August 1977, that "democracy could not be an imported commodity for Iran.... In our view democracy is synonymous with anarchy and breakdown of social order, and therefore is unacceptable. Such democracy can bear no good for any society.... Democracy can be constructive and fruitful for this country and our people only in the present context of its application in Iran.... The Iranian democracy enjoys economic democracy through democratic economy and social justice while providing the political aspects and safeguarding freedoms of the individual and society..."

On 5 September 1977, the daily AYANDEGAN wrote: "In its advanced forms, democracy is a luxury for people who lack even the basic necessities of life.

A month later (5 October) the same newspaper added: The spectre of a world passing through the last decades of the 20th century is quite different from the one when liberal bourgeoisie was on the ascendency. In those days and at the height of economic prosperity, democracy showed itself to be a system worth adopting; but today it has no choice but to re-appraise itself. Probably in Western countries the state will find itself compelled to interfere increasingly in the economic and social life of its citizens; and to tip the balance delicately in the choice between security and freedom, in favour of security."

On 23 October, when a conference was held in Athens on democracy, the daily RASTAKHIZ asked if an economically dependent country could ever be truly a democracy. It surmised that when a stomach is empty the mirage of freedom had no substance.

Teheran newspapers generally argue that the West has many serious political and economic problems, but its own version of democracy stops at its borders, ignoring the well being of the rest of the world and thus widening the gap between the rich and the poor. Instead of trying to alleviate the problems of poor countries the West seems content to write other nations prescriptions of its own democracy.

Furthermore, the press adds, having failed in everything else, it has now raised the question of human rights as a cover for its own failings or the situation it has created largely through its own past exploitations.

A more outspoken attack came from AYANDEGAN on 21 November, when it said that Western democracy today resembles more "political collusions than the government of the people by the people." It refers to the fact that many governments in the West are so weak that they spend most of their time in coalitions or other forms of political collusion to maintain themselves in office.

The newspaper cited numerous examples of shaky governments embroiled in domestic economic or labour problems, and asked: what good has this democracy done for the West that can warrant so much insistence on it? The results have been anarchy, political confusion, high prices and inflation, unemployment and rising crime; drug addiction and apathy.

These are considered to be the Iranian newspapers' answer to the articles and comments that have appeared in recent months on the Western press and other media, especially before and during the recent visit of Their Imperial Majesties to Washington and Paris.

CSO: 4820

IRAN

THE OIL NATIONALIZATION CASE

Teheran FYI IRAN POLITICAL DIGEST in English 4 Dec 77 pp 12-13

[Text] A controversy was started by a Rotary luncheon speech by Dr Reza Fallah, deputy general manager of NIOC when he attacked Prof Henri Rolin and demanded that the name of the street named after Rolin be changed. Doctor Fallah said that the International Court of Justice had been influenced by the British judge and had given a verdict detrimental to Iran and had lost Iran considerable revenues.

This brought several retorts including one from Dr Karim Sanjabi who was an Iranian judge on the same court. He said that in the first place Prof Henri Rolin was not a British judge but a Belgian jurist; in the second place he did not influence the court against Iran but ably defended the Iranian case as part of Iran's defence advocates. Above all, the court was not considering awards for or against Iran but was considering the question of Iran's competence to nationalize the oil industry. Even a vote by the British judge on the court (Macber) against Iran would have made no difference to the court verdict.

He also refuted Dr Fallah's statement that the Hague court's verdict was Iran's "biggest defeat in history" and that therefore the government in office at the time had committed high treason. Dr Sanjabi then quoted from a book by Mr Fouad Rouhani, a former director of NIOC and colleague of Dr Fallah.

Doctor Fallah, in a letter to the press, explained that he had been misquoted by the press; he had actually said he would not suggest the name of the street to be changed simple because the verdict had been detrimental to Iran.

Doctor Fallah took note particularly of two letters commenting on his original remark: one being by Mr Ahmad Bani-Ahmad, a Majlis deputy, who had questioned Dr Fallah's competence to comment on such legal matters. Dr Fallah said that Dr Sanjabi, now a prominent lawyer, also had failed to grasp the proper issues.

Significantly, an anonymous item appeared later attacking Dr Sanjabi for failing to use the new Iranian (Shahanshahi) calendar dates in his letter. The dates in the letter were all parts of direct quotations taken from various books and other documents written before the change of the official calendar.

IRAN

VALUE OF IMPORTED FOODSTUFFS

Teheran RASTAKHIZ in Persian 16 Nov 77 p 24

[Text] During the first 7 months of this year, 134.428 million dollars worth of foodstuffs were imported by the private sector.

In order to provide foodstuffs needed by the people and eliminate shortages of those items for which domestic production was insufficient, with the permission of the Ministry of Commerce 14 types of foodstuffs including rice, peas, beans, split peas, beef, lamb, frozen and smoked fish, meat conserve, chicken, eggs, powdered egg yolks, live cattle and sheep, cheese, butter, dry milk, and beer were imported by the private sector.

The food import with the greatest value was rice at 62.671 million dollars. 21.399 million dollars worth of cheese, 10.442 million dollars worth of butter, and 15.841 million dollars worth of dry milk were imported.

The least expensive import was meat conserve at 82,000 dollars. Moreover, 2.23 million dollars worth of eggs, 4.924 million dollars worth of peas, beans, and split peas, 1.363 million dollars worth of frozen and smoked fish, 5.401 million dollars worth of beef and lamb and 3.324 million dollars worth of live cattle and sheep were imported.

CSO: 4806

IRAN

CONSTRUCTION, AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT ENCOURAGED IN ILAM

Teheran RASTAKHIZ in Persian 19 Nov 77 p 24

[Article: "Ilam Farmers Loaned Up To 5 Million Riyals"]

[Text] The Agricultural Cooperative Bank of Iran is giving agricultural and construction loans of up to 5 million riyals to farmers for agricultural development and rural construction in the province of Ilam.

Asadollah Naser Esfahani, minister of interior, who had gone to Ilam as head of a delegation of deputies from the ministries of interior, agriculture, energy, and health, the Agricultural Bank, along with several other officials from organizations studying the difficulties and problems of this region, discussed the problems at a meeting attended by the governor general, management officials and members of the national councils of the province of Ilam. At the conclusion of the 2-day trip, referring to the adopted decisions, he said that farmers of the province of Ilam would make use of the long-term loans to develop agriculture, build housing units, and construct villages. The minister of interior pointed out that expansion of the activities of cooperatives and implementation of the plans of agricultural unions in accordance with the land needs of the Ilam provincial government have been turned over to the cooperatives.

Among the most important decisions adopted regarding the advancement of the development program of the province is the completion of roads under construction. Studies will be completed within the next 2 months regarding priorities and credits. In addition, other development plans will be carried out in conjunction with the program. The minister of interior, who was also accompanied on this trip by the Majles deputies from the province of Ilam, investigated the medical treatment inadequacies in Ilam and Mehran and said that doctors and medicines would be provided for this region. Hospital beds would also be increased and installation of a generator to light several villages would be approved.

The minister of interior and his companions saw the advances made in development and the completed projects and returned to Teheran yesterday afternoon.

CSO: 4806

KUWAIT

KUWAIT'S POSSESSION OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY EXAMINED

Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 2 Nov 77 p 6

[Article by Hisham Talib: "Kuwait Enters the World of Nuclear Technology"]

[Text] Is Kuwait entering the world of nuclear technology, and is it therefore the first Arab nation to take an interest in this science and make use of it in building electric power and water desalinization plants?

The official response has not yet been made public. However, indications and information provided by various sources point toward the possibility of such an achievement, especially in view of the fact that the young nation of Kuwait has begun to enter the world of the future from its wide-open door, as a result of the rapid development which has left a mark on its various scientific, industrial, educational and economic magazines as well as on communications, connections, etc.

This state of affairs prompts us to search for a gleam of hope to announce that Kuwait has come to possess nuclear technology and electric power and water desalinization and purification plants by means of nuclear reactors.

First Atomic Arab Nation

Kuwait is actually the first and only Arab country which has become a member of the board of supervisors of the International Atomic Energy Agency. It has participated in many of its meetings and conferences, the most recent of which, but not the least important, was the 21st conference held in Athens between 25 and 27 October.

Atomic Training

For several years Kuwait has been interested in bringing nuclear technology to itself, to the Arab countries and to the developing countries for the comfort and well-being of the people.

With this concern, it has thought of building a small nuclear plant to produce electric power and desalinize water, taking advantage of this to train various technical cadres.

Those responsible for this had thought it was the first step toward penetrating the Arab world.

When Kuwait brought up this idea to a number of nuclear countries under the banner of the International Atomic Energy Agency, it attracted attention and provoked questions.

A Kuwaiti Aspiration

At the last conference of the agency, Kuwait, represented by Dr Zaki Abu 'Id, head of the mechanics department in the Ministry of Electricity and Water, brought up the subject again. He presented a detailed study on the subject and supported it with facts, actual figures and technical aspects extracted from the proposals and specifications submitted to Kuwait after it has sent out an international invitation to submit bids to build a small nuclear reactor. Nothing has been announced yet about the result of the bidding. However, Dr Abu 'Id said that the ministry is studying the proposals, and perhaps the Ministry of Electricity and Water will announce the result.

The Kuwait of Tomorrow

On this basis, the guideposts on the path toward the world of nuclear technology appear before us. Kuwait will soon enter it.

Certain aspects of this path were unclear, however. The aspiration of the Kuwaiti mind, represented in the opinion leader and officials, confirms that they are looking toward the Kuwait of tomorrow, and it has all the manifestations of development and progress.

The Athens Conference

We should shed some light on the Athens conference in which Kuwait participated along with America, the Soviet Union, France, Great Britain, Germany and nations interested in the atom.

With regard to this subject, Dr Zaki Abu 'Id said, "The Athens conference was a specialized scientific conference held by the board of supervisors of the International Atomic Energy Agency. It examined the technical and economic matters concerning small and medium-sized nuclear reactors for the purpose of bringing nuclear technology to developing countries, especially in view of the fact that electricity networks in these countries cannot accommodate the electric power consumed. The agency selected me to represent Kuwait, as one of the exports in the field of energy, with the knowledge that Kuwait is represented by the Ministry of Electricity and Water."

International Atomic Committee Chaired by Kuwait

Dr Abu 'Id said that the subject of the developing countries benefiting from nuclear technology, which Kuwait raised, received a favorable response and encouragement from the development countries. However, this subject was not pursued at that time. However, it was brought up again officially at the last conference. The agency proposed the creation of an international committee under the chairmanship of Dr Abu 'Id to follow up and pursue the subject. Dr Zaki Abu 'Id explained certain aspects of his study. He said, "As a result of the study and the examination of all the technical aspects, safety and security, it appears that it is possible to obtain the reactor on condition that nuclear fuel is available. It also appears that costs are so extremely high as to make one think a great deal from the economic standpoint before going ahead with construction.

One-Billion-Dollar Reactor

The total cost of a small nuclear reactor is approximately \$500 million. He said that this is more than three or four times what appeared in the report. It is also more than any other estimates.

He added that this study effectively contributed toward revealing the cost of a small reactor in such a way as to sow the seeds of doubt in the mind of anyone thinking of such a thing.

Other Costs

He said that Kuwait was drafting a long-term nuclear program. Our goal, therefore, was to obtain a small reactor at reasonable cost, using it as a means to train Kuwaiti experts. In the present case we will pursue other means of training. If the rise in costs of the smaller ones is related to that of the ones, then there are additional costs due to the development, planning and production of the first model.

We have proposed an idea on the international level to build a reactor with international financing for the project.

He went on to say, "Kuwait's policy calls for the encouragement of the developing countries. On the basis of this desire, the project was received positively and the formation of the international committee I mentioned was proposed."

A Nuclear Reactor in Kuwait

In reply to questions of the press about the thought of building a nuclear reactor in Kuwait, Dr Abu 'Id said that the project is still under study. It might be in cooperation with neighboring Arab states. Contacts are being made between us, so it is likely that this atomic reactor will be built after consultation with a number of Arab countries.

The Atom Instead of Oil

He said that the nuclear project is multifaceted. If it is to produce electric power and desalinize water, this means that oil and gas are available for fuel. When asked if the nuclear reactor were able to take the place of oil, he said that oil had various uses and it was impossible to do without it as a chemical matter. Certainly nuclear power is an alternate source of energy to produce electricity and water.

Arab Atomic Reactors

With regard to the amount of time necessary to build reactors, he said that due to the nature of large nuclear reactors, it takes a long time--more than 7 years from the time the contract is signed until preparation and implementation. Its benefits cannot be reaped for a long time.

Dr Abu 'Id expressed hope that the Arab states would begin work on nuclear reactor technology, because it is an alternative. A reactor can be built in Kuwait, according to his personal opinion, because it would benefit everyone. He said that atomic reactors have been used in the Arab nation only in radioactive isotopes which are used in medical treatment.

Dr Abu 'Id pointed out that in Europe and America they are thinking of using reactors for heating. Then it will be possible to easily buy reactors, as long as the desire is there and the power networks of the developing countries will accommodate a medium-sized reactor.

International Participation in the Reactor

He explained that reactors need to be developed. The conference made a recommendation in hopes that reactors be financed from an international source in which rich nations and developed nations participate. With regard to his being made chairman of an international committee to pursue contacts in connection with this, Dr Abu 'Id said that this question would be decided by the government.

Caution Regarding Proliferation of Reactors

As for his impression of the atmosphere at the conference, he said that in fact it was cautious, but not opposed to sending nuclear technology to the developing countries.

Certain reservations were justified, but not sufficiently so, because sooner or later there will be a proliferation of reactors, and they will be used. Among these reservations is the fear that reactors will be used in warfare and not for peaceful purposes.

He said that such things can be monitored and the negative aspects avoided through discussion and good will.

KUWAIT

BRIEFS

NEW SUPPLY SHIP--The tanker "Tuwash 1" arrived at al-Sha'biyah port on board a large freighter from Singapore. Built for the Kuwait National Transport Company to provide rapid and modern service to areas which need petroleum products--Filka Island above all--it weighs 100 tons deadweight, and is 100 feet long and 25 feet wide. It is equipped with two engines of 230 HP each and has a speed of 7.5 knots. The tanker has various compartments which are separated in order to transport several petroleum products at the same time, such as benzene, kerosene and diesel fuel. "Tuwash 1" will be put into service soon under the administration of the Local Marketing Department which supervises the distribution of petroleum products throughout the country. It will supply the Filka Island gas station with petroleum products. Sales there are expected to increase due to the island's development from both the touristic and population standpoints. "Tuswash 1" is the first of its kind in Kuwait. The company has concluded a contract with a well-known shipbuilding company in Singapore to build a sister tanker to expand its services for all facilities which require rapid, efficient operations in the supply of petroleum products, such as supplying ships, fishing boats and drilling equipment operating in the coastal waters of Kuwait. It is doing this after the success of its pioneering experiment in supplying large ships outside territorial waters by means of a (national) oil tanker. The second tanker, "Tuwash 2," is expected to arrive on 10 November and will be a kind of floating gas station serving as a supply center for fishing boats. [Text] [Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 3 Nov 77 p 7] 7811

YUGOSLAV NEWS SERVICE--The People's Socialist Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and the illustrated news service agency Fizinuz signed a contract yesterday to furnish the Libyan radio with news tapes which the agency distributes on various international events. The contract was signed for Libya by the director of the news and political program office and by a representative of the Fizinuz agency. [Text] [Tripoli AL-FAJR AL-JADID in Arabic 31 Oct 99 p 1] 7811

CSO: 4802

LIBYA

THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEES: AIMS AND PROGRAM

Tripoli AL-JIHAD in Arabic 10 Nov 77 p 2

[Article by Mu'awiyah al-Suway'i: "Why Do We Need the Revolutionary Committees?"]

[Text] Why do we need the revolutionary committees? What are their aims? Is their function a part of the pioneering experiment of establishing the authority of the people?

What is the relationship between the revolutionary committees and the Basic People's Congresses?

What is their action program?

What kind of people are supposed to be members of these committees?

How are they selected? Is the selection process based on their record during the past years and their ideological commitment to the concepts of the Great First of September Revolution?

These and many other questions were raised following the issuance of the first statement by the revolutionary committee in Tripoli.... Questions asked in search for convincing answers.

For an example, every citizen in the Jamahiriyyah--thanks to the Great First of September Revolution--feels that he is a revolutionary, that he believes in the experiment and that he is ready to sacrifice his life for his revolution and its sublime principles.

Throughout the years of the revolution in every day, every step taken by the people, especially in times of challenge, has reflected that great cohesion between the masses and the leader of their revolution. They are a people who die in defense of a principle and live for it.

As long as this is true, as the whole world has seen, why then do we need the revolutionary committees?

Any attempt to answer these questions requires a review of the broad or basic lines of our experiment in direct people's democracy as the framework that governs the movement of our people today.

Here in the Jamahiriyyah--which opened the age of the Jamahiriyyahs--we believe and practically apply the principle that authority is for the people and that they exercise this authority through the Basic People's Congresses, popular committees, professional unions and technical associations.

The country's wealth is for the people and it will be distributed through agricultural, industrial, educational and public health projects to realize hundreds of gigantic gains and achievements...achievements that were realized and are being realized and have become the object of astonishment and a great indicator in the Arab and world economies.

Arms are for the people in deed and not merely in words.

The decision to implement a general military training program came from the people and alongside the military training we have the people's resistance units and al-Mujahidin regiments.

Here in the Jamahiriyyah, the philosophical tenets theorized by the revolutionary and intellectual Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhafi in the "Green Book" have become evident realities: "authority is for the people, wealth is for the people and arms are in the hands of the people."

Based on the article of the Green Book, "committees everywhere," there are committees that control the sites of work and production. There are also executive committees whose prime mission is to implement the recommendations of the Basic People's Congresses.

As for the Basic People's Congresses, the Green Book says: "There is no democracy without people's congresses."

Hence, the Basic People's Congresses in which every citizen in the Jamahiriyyah is supposed to be a member, have the function of keeping watch over the People's Committees, as the executive instrument, discussing the items included in the agendas of the issues presented to them and forwarding them to the People's General Congress to be studied and drafted into resolutions that will be referred to the secretariats, organizations and municipal councils for implementation.

Thus, the most recent experiment in direct democracy has been instituted, an experiment that has been the dream of man throughout the ages and an experiment which he has tried to carry out in the various stages of his struggle.

As I said in a previous article, the Earth's globe has been decorated with paintings of red violence throughout the ages.

In the fifth century B.C., the "liberals" of Athens tried to develop the tribal system into a new system which they called democracy. But the system did not succeed for many reasons: The most important reason was the aversion of the citizens of Athens which made them afraid of the experiment. Perhaps, one of the most instrumental factors in the failure of the experiment was that no vanguard committees were formed to educate and guide the masses and to protect the experiment, in case of a setback. Hence, the infant experiment in Greece failed.

Later, several people's movements appeared but did not succeed. The French Revolution in 1789 might be the only revolution that was able to stand in the face of the currents. The people marched on the Bastille, put an end to monarchy and proclaimed the First Republic.

But in its objectives, the French Revolution alienated itself from the people and thus enabled capitalism to contain it. Thus, the system was imposed whose consequences we can see today in the West.... Why?

Because the French Revolution which moved away from the people did not succeed in choosing revolutionary vanguards to be the security belt and protectors of the goals of the revolution.

Then, through the comprehensive social movement in Europe, the "liberal" system appeared. One of its basic elements was the existence of a number of "parties" representing the people and speaking on their behalf. That system was adopted by several states, including some Arab states, unfortunately.

It is enough to cite as a shortcoming, of this system, the power struggle among the parties in these states. All the peoples have started to reject such forms of "representation," representing the peoples of course.

During the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia, there appeared the people's communist democracy, advocated by Marx and applied and regulated by Lenin. One of its negative aspects was that it disregarded spiritual values, religious feelings and general freedoms. This affected its momentum and brought it to a freezing point in Eastern Europe.

In our country, the picture is completely different. Here, we have a new-born, modern and unique experiment in its aims and implications. Am I revealing a secret if I say that the Libyan experiment for the establishment of the authority of the people (direct democracy) has attracted the attention of most peoples of the world? And that the Green Book has crossed Arab and international borders and is being studied in the oldest and largest universities in the world?

Am I revealing a fact if I say that most of the masses and the revolutionary forces in the Arab homeland have responded to the historic speech at Zawarah and have organized marches to take over the sites of work and positions of authority in some Arab countries? These revolutionary forces in the Arab homeland will inevitably succeed, someday.

Here, we have a completely different case. Here in the Jamahiriyyah we have a third line between the red and the white! Here, people have the authority, the revolution and the arms.

Therefore, there is no disagreement about the existence of the Revolutionary Committees. These committees must be made up of the best revolutionary elements among the members of the Basic People's Congresses.

While they are not a substitute for the leaderships of the Basic People's Congresses, they represent the security belt to affirm the authority of the people.

The revolutionary committees are a pulsating artery in the blood circulation system of the society. They are the progressive vanguards for the protection of the Great First of September Revolution and the experiment of direct democracy instituted by the teacher, Mu'ammar al-Qadhafi who said:

"Authority to the people, wealth to the people and arms are in the hands of the people." Members of the revolutionary committees--which represent the political, intellectual and scientific framework of the forces of the Great First of September Revolution--should be, as a matter of condition, people who are well informed, active and committed to the ideological thinking of the Great Revolution. Their presence in the revolutionary committees will be an asset and a momentum toward the complete success of the experiment.

As indicated by the statements issued by the revolutionary committees, during the last 2 days, the revolutionary committees, are entrusted, among other things, with the following missions:

1. To guide the people's committees and the leadership committees of the Basic People's Congresses.
2. To activate the Basic People's Congresses.
3. To urge the masses to exercise authority.
4. To exercise revolutionary supervision.
5. To protect the Great First of September Revolution, to defend it and to promulgate its principles.

I hope that with this short article, I have approached the task of answering some of the several questions posed.

6800
CSO: 4802

LIBYA

TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM MODERNIZED

Tripoli AL-JIHAD in Arabic 10 Nov 77 p 5

[Article by Fawqiyah 'Abd al-'Al: "The Coaxial Cable System: What Does It Mean for the Tripoli International Airport"]

[Text] Means of communication have become the nerve system of modern life. Here in the Jamahiriyyah, in the middle of a revolution in comprehensive development which includes all the aspects and fields of life, we are witnessing a revolution in communications that will enable us to join the procession of the age in which we live and to establish a means of contact with the world which is focusing its attention on us to see our pioneering experiment in direct popular democracy.

A few days ago, a new telecommunications station, located between the Tripoli International Airport and Tripoli was inaugurated. The station, designated the Coaxial Cable System, has a capacity of 1,200 telephone, telegraph and telex lines, in addition to 500 visual broadcast lines.

In an interview with engineer 'Ali Abu Qufah, the director of the long distance calls administration in the General Organization for Posts and Telecommunications, he said that the new station matches the most modern technology in communications.

The station was built by a Japanese company at a cost of 900 million dinars. It took the company 1 full year to complete it.

Engineer 'Ali Abu Qufah went on to say, "The new picture which we have with the inauguration of the new station will not be complete unless we return to the past to see the burdensome legacy which we inherited. When the Great First of September Revolution occurred, the airport was linked with the city of Tripoli by an old network having a capacity of only 60 telephone and telegraph lines. That network depended on old equipment of 1958 models. In addition, it lacked a channel for television which had only the main transmission station to use. While the extinct regime realized the shortcomings of that network, it did not consider changing it. When the revolution came, the change of that station became a priority. The change was

seriously considered with the initial steps taken for the building of the new Tripoli International Airport which would be comparable to the most modern airports in the world."

The new international airport needs modern and rapid means of communication to link it first with all parts of the Jamahiriya and then with all parts of the outside world. The airport requires communication systems to provide the following services:

--Ticket reservations between the airport and all the airlines operating in the Jamahiriya.

--Ticket reservations between the airport and all the airlines in all parts of the world.

--Transmission of meteorological data of interest to civil aviation traffic, such as wind speed, temperatures, etc. This kind of information is necessary for any aircraft that crosses our air space and lands or takes off from our airports.

In addition, we have to meet the needs of the area surrounding the airport where changes have been introduced with the start of the implementation on the revolutionary development plans. The Qasr Ben Ghashir and Sawani Ben Adem regions have been turned into densely populated industrial centers. As such, they demand means of communication.

The first step taken was the inauguration of the centimetre waves station with a capacity of 960 lines, in addition to a television channel. That station was opened last year.

But the requirements of the development plan rendered this station--with a capacity 16 times larger than the old and pre-revolution station--inadequate. The airport needs continuing communication services in all directions. The building of the new station--the Coaxial Cable System--was contemplated to support the centimetre waves system and to be its substitute in case of disruption.

The project was contemplated a year ago. It was approved and a Japanese company was contracted to carry it out.

Exactly 1 year from the signing of the contract, the station was delivered and it was inaugurated in the middle of last month. The station has a capacity of 1,700 lines, including 1,200 telephone, telegraph and telex lines and 500 other lines forming a television channel. The television lines can be used as telephone lines if not operated as a television channel.

'Ali Abu Qufah added that this central cable also contains another small cable with a capacity of 300 lines linking the benzine-powered generating

plant on the airport road with the airport. These lines also provide telephone, telegraph and telex services, in addition to linking the gas station with the airport. The purpose of this small cable is to secure an uninterrupted and convenient supply of fuels to the airport [sic].... The recent international horse race was televised through this small cable to viewers in the Jamahiriya.

The important thing is that this main and subsidiary cable links the airport with Tripoli and subsequently with all parts of the Jamahiriya and the whole world. The 26-kilometer-long coaxial cable, an underground cable, is the first of its kind in the Jamahiriya. It is part of a gigantic project designed to link all the Jamahiriya with coaxial cables, from east to west and from north to south.

A consultative office is now setting the technical specifications of the large-scale project. The first part of the project will be announced in a tender next year. Later on, implementation will begin. There is an insistent question that every citizen would like to ask: What will be the effect of these coaxial cables on the quality of communication with any place in the Jamahiriya?

The answer gives hope for a prosperous future that will compensate Libya for the deprivation it suffered during the extinct regime which affected the lives of the Libyans who suffered hardships during that regime. In the near future, the telephone system will be automatic. With the completion of the telephone central project, telephone contacts will be done automatically, provided you know the area code number for every municipality.

In other words, my dear reader, whether you are in your office or at home, you can dial any number in any part of the Jamahiriya without the help of an intermediary, i.e., the central telephone office.

6800
CSO: 4802

LIBYA

MUNICIPAL PROJECTS OF 1977 OUTLINED

Tripoli AL-JIHAD in Arabic 27 Oct 77 pp 1, 2

[Article: "In the Municipalities Sector 1,105 Projects Worth 449 Million Dinars Are Underway"]

[Text] The number of projects currently being implemented in the municipalities sector during the present period of 1977 is 1,105, worth 449 million dinars, including 351 new projects contracted this year with a total value of 141.5 million dinars. Among the most important projects of the municipalities sector in the 1977 transition plan are the Zuwarah sewage treatment plant project which costs approximately 29 million dinars, and construction of 33 commercial markets according to the consumer complex plan at a cost of nearly 18 million dinars.

This appeared in a summary of the report on the follow-up of people's projects issued by the Planning Secretariat.

A correspondent of the Jamhiriya News Agency disclosed that the contracts concluded in the municipalities sector for 1977 were nearly 100 million dinars more than in 1976, due to the large contacts in the sewage system plan. The most important of these is the treatment plant at al-Quwarshah for nearly 30 million dinars, the Tripoli al-Hadbah al-Khadra' treatment plant for nearly 33 million dinars, and the Zuwarah sewage system for approximately 24 million dinars.

In the summary of the follow-up report on the projects issued by the Planning Secretariat, it appeared that in 1977, 130 wells for drinking water were dug, water pipelines nearly 650 kilometers long were laid out, and 70 water reservoirs were built.

In the sewage system project nearly 250 kilometers of pipeline were laid, and the drainage capacity of the sewage system plants was increased by nearly 30,000 cubic meters a day. In other projects, paving, repairing and lighting were carried out over approximately 200 kilometers.

It is worth mentioning that allocations of the municipalities sector in the transition plan of 1977 were approximately 121 million dinars. Total

expenditures from the allocations of this sector up to the beginning of October of this year amounted to 81 million dinars. The total volume of expenditures by the end of next December is likely to reach 112 million dinars. The percentage of projects completed by the end of this year is expected to rise from 61.8 percent to 86.2 percent.

7811

CSO: 4802

LIBYA

EXPENDITURES RATES FOR 1977 REPORTED

Tripoli AL-FAJR AL-JADID in Arabic 1 Nov 77 p 1

[Article: "Expenditures This Year Amount to 735 Million Dinars"]

[Text] The sectors of integrated agricultural development, transportation, communications, agriculture, agrarian reform, health, housing and electricity recorded superior performance in the percentage of projects implemented which was more than 92 percent of all projects of the 1977 transition plan for these sectors.

The allocations for integrated agricultural development amounted to 176 million dinars, of which 167 million have been spent. The percentage of implementation was 94.9 percent.

Allocations for transportation and communications amounted to 123.6 million dinars, of which 116 million have been spent. The percentage of implementation was 93.9 percent. Allocations of the sector of agriculture and agrarian reform amounted to 107 million dinars, of which 100 million dinars have been spent. The percentage of implementation was 93.4 percent.

Allocations for health were 47 million dinars, of which 40 million have been spent. The percentage of implementation was 86 percent.

Allocations for housing amounted to 185 million dinars, of which 170 million have been spent. The percentage of implementation was 91.9 percent.

As for the electricity sector, its allocations amounted to 156 million dinars, of which 142 million have been spent. The percentage of implementation was 91 percent.

These figures on the outstanding achievement percentages in the above-mentioned sectors appeared in statistics in a detailed report used recently by the Planning Secretariat.

A correspondent of the Jamahiriya News Agency mentioned that the 1976-1980 Five-Year Plan is in fact a second stage completing the great success achieved by the 1973-1975 Three-Year Plan in all sectors of the national economy.

It is worth noting that total expenditures for the people's projects during 1976 and 1977 were 2,423 million dinars out of the overall 1976-1980 Five-Year Plan for which 7,525 million dinars were allocated.

7811
CSO: 4802

MAURITANIA

MINISTER UNWILLING TO PUBLISH LIST OF SAHARAN PRISONERS

Dakar LE SOLEIL in French 25 Nov 77 p 13

[Text] Nouakchott, (AFP)--Mauritania is no longer willing to submit to the International Committee of the Red Cross (CICR) the list of Saharan prisoners whom it is holding to obtain the release of the French and Mauritanian detainees, in accordance with the French Government's stand. Mr Hamdi Ould Mouknass, the Mauritanian minister of foreign affairs, stated on Wednesday in an interview with AFP.

"To publish the list of our prisoners as against the publication of the so-called prisoners detained by Algier's mercenaries would be to recognize the very existence of the organization of these mercenaries. This is unacceptable to us," said the minister.

However, Mr Mouknass added that if Algeria, "which is holding the hostages in its territory," formulates the request with the aim of lessening tension in the region, Mauritania could eventually respond favorably to such a request. "The only path that can lead to the liberation of the hostages must necessarily pass through Algeria," he added.

As the Mauritanian minister was making these statements, the Polisario Front launched two simultaneous attacks against the bases of Tmeimichatt and Inal along the railway. These attacks left 23 Saharan refugees and 13 Mauritanian troops dead, an official source noted yesterday in Nouakchott.

The confrontations also left many wounded and caused major material damages on both sides, the same source added without further clarification. The attacks were launched at about 730 hours by two Saharan armored columns, each consisting of some 40 vehicles. The Inal base is located about 40 kilometers east of the Tmeimichatt base, which is situated some 300 kilometers east of the ocean port of Nouadhibou.

The directorate of the National Mining and Industrial Association (SNIM) confirmed, moreover, yesterday that one of its employees, an escorter on the transport train that was attacked Tuesday 90 kilometers southeast

of Zouerate, was "slightly wounded" by the Saharan gunfire. The SNIM pointed out that no other employee, expatriate or Mauritanian, was "killed, wounded or kidnaped" by the Polisario Front during the Tuesday and Wednesday operations.

In addition, it was thought yesterday in Algiers that the two fishermen from the Canary Islands and the Spanish sailor who were taken prisoner by the Polisario Front on 14 November off the Western Sahara coast might be released in the next few days and even in the next few hours.

Although it could not be confirmed, the three occupants of the Spanish vessel attacked by the Polisario Front might be released in the Algerian capital, in light of the tension that prevails along Algeria's southwest border.

It was learned, in fact, that a high-level Saharan leader was expected to arrive in the Algerian capital yesterday evening on his way from the "interior," in other words, from the Western Sahara.

Representatives of the Spanish congressional left-wing have already arrived in the Algerian capital. However, the presence of a Spanish Government emissary, which had been rumored yesterday morning, could not be confirmed or denied as of the early afternoon.

8743
CSO: 4400

MAURITANIA

RAINFALL DEFICIENCY

Dakar LE SOLEIL in French 16 Nov 77 p 15

[Text] Nouakchott, (AFP)--The rainfall recorded in Mauritania at the close of the 1977 rainy season is about half that of a normal year, according to a document sent to embassies in Nouakchott by the Mauritanian minister of foreign affairs.

This deficiency, along with a lengthy delay in and improper distribution of rainfall, the document points out, can only lead to "a significant decrease" in the yield of land under cultivation and "major" livestock losses. The country's grain production (millet, sorghum, rice) this year will be about 30 percent of the output of a normal year.

Production will not exceed 30,000 tons, whereas there is an estimated need if 180,000 tons (1.5 million inhabitants, 120 kilos per inhabitant), the document further reveals.

Grain stocks as of 1 November totaled 10,000 tons. If we add to this the 72,000 tons that the Mauritanian authorities are planning to import over the next 12 months, there is still a grain shortfall of 52,500 tons. This shortfall must be offset by contributions from the international community that have already been requested, it was said in Nouakchott.

The document sent to the embassies in the Mauritanian capital also reports a shortfall of 4,000 to 5,000 tons of milk and 3,000 to 4,000 tons of butter. It noted in conclusion that about 3 million francs are needed right now to restore to operating condition the transportation vehicles used to supply the interior of Mauritania.

8743
CSO: 4400

SAUDI ARABIA

SAMA REPORTS SLOWING OF INFLATION, DEVELOPMENT GROWTH

Jiddah AL-MADINAH in Arabic 30 Oct 77 p 13

[Text] An important report issued recently by the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency reveals symptoms of good health in the Saudi economy during the current year; the most important of these symptoms are the alleviation of congestion in the ports of Jiddah and al-Dammam, the large increase in the kingdom's imports, and the decrease in the rate of growth in the cost of living in the country accompanied by a decrease in the rate of inflation in general and especially in the housing sector.

This important statistical report records an increase in the methods of payment as well as an increase in the amount of money in circulation, in a way that reflects the increase in government spending in riyals and the increase in loans offered by government loan funds. The report also states that the state took several measures to reduce the effect of the increase in the methods of payments on inflation. Concerning the other developments in the Saudi economy the report refers to the apparent increase in the volume of the kingdom's production and exports of oil, and to the increase in the salaries of the state's civil and military employees. The report states in that regard that the government has taken strict measures to oversee prices in the market in order to enable the state's employees to gain a real benefit from these salary increases and to put a limit on any tendency to increase prices.

On housing projects in Jiddah and al-Dammam, the report mentions that the housing projects in the two cities include 42 apartment buildings each with 18 floors at a total cost of 2.666 billion riyals. These housing areas will be provided with all needed services and public utilities. The report anticipates that the contracts for construction of similar projects will be finalized in the near future in Riyadh, al-Khubar, al-Khafji, al-Qatif and al-Ahsa', given that the government's long-range plan aims at establishing 148 thousand housing units in all areas of the kingdom.

On the Ministry of Housing's new projects, the report states that his highness the minister of public works has signed two contracts to establish a port in the Ras al-Ghor region on the east coast with a capacity to handle half a million tons annually and another on the Red Sea coast 99 km to the north of Jiddah; this port will have the capacity to unload five thousand tons of raw cement annually.

On another matter, the report refers to the royal decree which approved raising the share of the Saudi Arabian Kingdom in the International Monetary Fund from 134 units to 600 units. The report also includes details on a number of huge development projects in the country, such as construction of the Yanbu' cement factory which will have a productive capacity of 3000 tons a day at a total cost of 800 million riyal, and construction of the petrochemical complex in al-Jubayl. Work to construct that complex is expected to start during 1979 at a total cost of 3.5 billion Saudi riyals.

On the electricity projects in Wadi Jizan and al-Kharj, the report notes that the total cost of these projects will be 17 million riyals. Work on these projects has already started.

The Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency statistical report also took care to stress the importance of the great accomplishment of expanding the Riyadh oil refinery. Work on this refinery is expected to be completed before 1980 and it will increase the refinery capacity to 120,000 barrels a day which will be enough to meet the needs of the central region of the kingdom.

The report includes a large number of tables and statistics which record the details of the economic activities of the country during that period.

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SAUDI ARABIA

CONTRACTS SIGNED FOR AL-JUBAYL PROJECTS

Jiddah AL-MADINAH in Arabic 3 Nov 77 p 1

[Text] Jiddah, SAUDI NEWS AGENCY, His Excellency Dr 'Abd-al-Rahman ibn 'Abd-al-'Aziz Al al-Shaykh, minister of agriculture and water and chairman of the board of the General Organization for Water Desalination, signed four contracts yesterday to implement the first stage of the water desalination station and power station projects in al-Jubayl. Engineer 'Isam Jamjam the lieutenant governor attended the signing of the contracts which took place in the headquarters of the organization.

The total cost of these agreements concluded with four specialized international corporations amounted to 2.022 billion riyals. In implementing these agreements the most elaborate specifications and international standards in the field of producing water at the rate of 30 million gallons of water and 300 megawatts of electricity a day have been observed. The first agreement calls for construction of a water desalination station consisting of six units at a cost of 622 million riyals, to be carried out in 47 months ending in 1981.

The second agreement calls for implementing construction of power plants consisting of six turbine units to produce 300 megawatts of electricity at a cost of 914 million riyals to be completed at the beginning of October 1981.

The third agreement concerns the civil engineering work to prepare the site of the station at a cost of 298 million riyals. The fourth agreement calls for the securing of waterways by building an entrance and an exit for seawater to and from the desalination station and the maintenance of the station for a period of four years from now; this will cost 188 million riyals.

Dr 'Abd-al-Rahman Al al-Shaykh stressed the importance of the desalination projects and the goals for their implementation with the speed and accuracy which will ensure execution of the Organization's projects in accordance with the 5-year plan. His Excellency said in a statement to the Saudi News

Agency that the Organization has undertaken for the first time to engage four concerns in a field of specialization to execute one project, and he added that we have taken into consideration the importance of executing the projects in a comprehensive way and as speedily as possible. His excellency the minister of agriculture explained that the contracts provide for holding periodic meetings among the four concerns to coordinate the work among them in whatever way is deemed suitable, and he stated that it was agreed that the companies will submit reports to him and the chairman of the board every other month about the progress of the work as an effective means of control, supervision and follow-up of all implementation operations one by one.

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SAUDI ARABIA

FINAL YANBU' PLANS READIED

Jiddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 7 Nov 77 p 7

[Article by Yunis Muhammad Ishaq: Final Yanbu' Industrial Area Plans Drawn up. Execution of 18 Projects Costing 1300 million Riyals.]

[Text] 'UKAZ has learned that the general plan for the primary facilities for the Yanbu' industrial area project are about to be finished. His excellency engineer Sami Mawsili, director general of the project, said that the directorate general has so far finished planning more than 18 projects the total cost of which will be about 1.3 billion riyals.

All these projects were offered for public bidding. Eight of these projects have already been implemented. He added that the general plan project is the product of the efforts and cooperation of all agencies concerned with industrial development in addition to the policies adopted by the board of directors of the Royal Authority in its various sessions. He added that there was coordination again all the ministries and the agencies concerned during the stages of planning and execution in this field. He noted that points of the general plan include a number of important requirements, at the head of which is the fact that the general plan will furnish every industrial project approved in Yanbu' with all its needs as well as basic facilities and a housing area constructed in stages each of which is directly related to the actual needs of the industrial projects and tied in with the implementation program of these industries, that it strives to create basic facilities with the most economical methods while observing the time schedule and the required specifications and that it also enables us to establish industries and their basic facilities with the least possible negative effects upon the surrounding environment while allowing sufficient flexibility to make any necessary changes.

On another matter the first implementation plan has been completed. It covers the next eight years of industrial development in the kingdom. It complements what remains of the second development plan and will continue until the end of the third development plan. This general plan meets the needs of the industries currently approved in the state's program including:

Accurate definition of programs and projects,

Time schedule for coordinated implementation which includes the stages of planning, establishing, administration and maintenance,

Annual budget for all the years of the plan based upon the estimates for each project and the requirements of its expenses.

A plan for administrative organization,

A plan for manpower development.

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SAUDI ARABIA

CONTRACTORS DIRECTED TO USE LOCAL MATERIALS

Jiddah AL-MADINAH in Arabic 31 Oct 77 p 1

[Article: "Directive From His Highness the Crown Prince: Contractors forbidden to build any plants and obliged to use local products"]

[Text] Riyadh, SAUDI NEWS AGENCY by Husayn Ali Husayn: His Royal Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd-al-'Aziz the Crown Prince and Deputy Prime Minister issued directives to ministries, government agencies and public organizations to forbid the companies with which they have contracts from building any plant no matter what its size without the prior approval of the Ministry of Industry and Electricity and to oblige these companies to use the products of the national industry whenever possible. His Highness ordered that the contracts concluded with these concerns include a statement in reference to this to guard the public interest.

This royal directive was issued after it was noticed recently that some companies which have contracts with ministries and government agencies build some plants locally to produce raw materials and basic commodities under the pretext of using them to execute contracts for business they have with these agencies without a prior license from the Ministry of Industry; this is something that hurts local licensed plants in particular and the national industry in general.

It is worth mentioning that the present rules forbid establishing any factory before a decision is issued by his excellency the minister of industry and electricity since licensing for factory construction became mandatory.

AL-MADINAH has learned that his excellency the minister of industry and electricity Dr Ghazi al-Qusaybi has issued a memo to be distributed to the consulting firms working in the Kingdom in which he referred to cabinet resolution no. 1977, which was ratified by royal consent and which mandates that technical agencies in the ministries, public organizations and the consulting firms working with the state give priority to the products of national industry when they plan specifications for government projects. His excellency added that, in light of that resolution, if any consulting firm working with the state sets specifications which apply only to foreign products despite the availability of local products which meet the required standards, its action will be considered illegal according to Saudi law.

His excellency said he hopes that the consulting firms abide by the cabinet's resolution and his ministry is ready to supply these firms with any information they may need about the products of national industry. It is worthy of mention that AL-MADINAH expected that resolution to be issued in last Saturday's issue. That resolution limits the dependence of the foreign companies on materials made outside the kingdom when similar materials are available from local plants.

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SYRIA

EDITORIAL DECRIES CORRUPTION

Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 1 Oct 77 p 12

[Editorial: "Correcting Individuals and Also Relationships"]

[Text] If corruption in the government departments has become the main subject of a speech delivered by the president of the republic, then this means that the situation has gone beyond exceptions and individual incidents. A quick review of the section devoted to citizens' complaints in the local newspapers confirms that this corruption is common but not inclusive and that it should be eradicated although it is not easy to do so.

The press has repeatedly warned about what is happening not only to the corruption of consciences but also to the strange chaos and destruction. No one listened and the corruptors continued in their corruption and the destroyers continued in their destruction. Our belief is that if the president had not confronted this corruption, it would have continued. We know that we have reached the stage of despair that something might happen to stop the collapse of the government departments and the citizens' confidence in them.

Now since the auditing [investigating corruption] has begun and has passed through several stages and since we do not know the point it has reached, we should ask ourselves some questions and not ignore the answers.

Why did corruption in departments of the government reach a point where investigation of corruption became a popular demand which the president of the republic called for.

Is it because there are high-level and low-level officials who have betrayed the confidence placed in them by the president; do they have no morals; are they working against the patriotic socialist trend?

I believe that the answer to the last three questions is "Yes." There are officials who have betrayed the confidence which the president placed in them.

There are officials who were found to lack morals. There are high-and low-level officials who work against the patriotic socialistic trend.

The issue of confidence and conscience is relative. In this era it is difficult to find those who work honorably solely because they were given the trust of the people. Scarcer yet are those who work conscientiously in a world that is continuously becoming less conscionable and less moral except when compelled by law. When there is law and when it is applied equally to all, then conscience and moral values exist as well.

We are in the midst of a world of economic strife and we must weigh things with other than the typical scales. Corruption in departments of the government has reached a point where the purge and the investigation of corruption are demanded by the people. This is due mainly to high- and low-level officials who are working against the patriotic socialistic trend. Those are the ones who corrupted and were corrupted and they should be called to account. The governmental appara*t*a were built according to a socialistic base whereby the public sector, imports, exports, prices, etc., are all controlled by the government. When the government policy of encouraging the national capital started so that the public sector could function energetically, the activities of the private sector were limited by the departments of the government. A balance and coordination was supposed to exist between the private and the public sectors, and in the interests of the country the activities of each sector should have been responsible and correct.

However some officials suddenly discovered that they had control over something called a signature and that with a stroke of a pen millions of pounds could be transferred. In the offices, large pockets and pouches were opened to be filled with money in exchange for obtaining the signatures.

We should not ignore the fact that this started at the top and then spread like an epidemic to reach the bottom. Instead of having cooperation between the public and the private sectors in the public interest, this cooperation was changed into public devastation and individual interest. Several unnecessary transactions which cost millions were made solely because of bribery and not because the poor people in this country might suffer from hunger and thirst if such transactions were not made. Those who were working against the patriotic socialistic trend are the ones who brought about this bad situation and not the poor citizen who needs an extra income to buy bread.

Investigation should not be limited only to individuals--and there are those who would be glad to see those individuals hanged--but it should include a review of the regulations determining the relationship between the private and the public sectors. Will some people be called to account while this relationship is left unreformed? Will this be enough?

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SYRIA

POPULAR EXPECTATIONS REGARDING ANTI-CORRUPTION CAMPAIGN RISE

Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 2 Oct 77 p 12

[Article by Muhammad 'Imran]

[Text](1) In the villages, people do not talk about the crops these days in spite of the fact that the grapes have withered on the vines and the olive trees sprout nothing but green leaves. If you ask a man about crops his answer would be "The news about the committee is good." Before sunset, when the people gather for tea, and in the evenings when the tables are spread, people forget their daily gossiping and get directly into a more important matter--the committee. People there have their manual labor, their worries, their continuous obligations, their fears and their hopes, but now they are pushing them aside. Now, there is no concern except for the committee--where is it now and where is it headed--and the new names which have been listed by the committee. Imagination grows and outstrips the committee by deciding for it the names, the thefts, the buildings, bank accounts, tractors and farms as if to show the committee how the investigations should proceed due to a sound intuitive perception.

With the ruggedness of a mountaineer an old farmer will confront you if you doubt the results of the committee. Voices from everywhere rise against you saying, "Do you want the committee to fail and the corruption to continue? It seems you are afraid to be touched by it?" In a loud voice you say, "My friends, I hope that no thief escapes but I know what you do not know..." They all answer, in one voice, "Doubt is your only concern, you smart fellows." You keep silent just as you should as the people are now sensitive but in your heart you say, "God, do not disappoint them."

Because you claim to be knowledgeable about deep ideas, you would sympathize if they were to become disappointed.

(2) The average citizen who shows public concern is not a spectator--this is the first fact. When public concern becomes the uppermost in the average citizen's life, it means that his great perception and sensitivity cannot be killed by stealing from him. His country is in first place and this eventually means that he is not deceived--this is the second fact. People [of Syria] are public-minded and not concerned [only] with daily worries--this is the third fact.

(3) With a mature attitude the average citizen knows that the reason behind the spread of cholera is the failure of officials in the Ministry of Health and the municipalities and not the ignorance of people concerning sanitation. With a mature attitude the average citizen knows that the outbreak of corruption, which became more dangerous than cholera, is the result of the slackening of control within the country during a difficult time in history outside the country. With the same mature attitude the average citizen forgets about bread, housing and clothing and starts thinking about the problems of his country.

(4) The average citizen expects the committee to at least stop the disease. This is what the average citizen is asking for.

I ask to committee to realize the hopes of our citizens and to have pity on the dreamers so that they will not be disappointed.

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WESTERN SAHARA

SAHARAN EXPERT URGES SPAIN TO CANCEL TRIPARTITE PACTS

Madrid MUNDO OBRERO in Spanish 10-16 Nov 77 p 7

[Interview with Roberto Mesa, J. D., professor of international law, University of Madrid, by Rodrigo Mazquez Prada; date and place not given]

[Text] "With respect to the Spanish policy toward the Sahara, first with the tripartite agreements and later with the attitudes maintained by the Suarez government, the least that can be said is that it has been unspeakable. Now, in the light of the serious situation which has developed in the last few days, the Spanish government would have to intervene as a mediator, on the diplomatic level...."

Roberto Mesa, of Seville, a doctor of law and assistant professor at the School of International Law at the University of Madrid, author of a series of works on the problems of the Third World--among them "Colonialism in Crisis in 19th Century Spain," "Vietnam, Ideological Conflict," "The Colonial Rebellion," as well as an excellent biography of Lenin and an essay on the "Theory of International Relations," is, without a doubt, one of the most prestigious specialists in Third World questions, including the Sahara question. A question which has become a real powder keg lately, which can explode any minute ... and in which everything began with the failure on the part of the last government of the dictatorship, in November 1975, to comply with the UN mandate.

It could be said that, up to a certain date, the Spanish government was more or less complying with the UN mandate: it permitted the UN Investigating Commission to visit and accepted the authority of the International Court of Justice at The Hague, which issued a judgment which, although some of its points were actually ambiguous, recognized the right of the Saharan people to self-determination. However, in October 1975 this position of the Spanish government changed completely: the Saharan people were not consulted, and the territory was turned over to Morocco and Mauritania.

Interest of Spanish Capitalism

[Question] Could you briefly recall some of the basic factors which determines this substantial turnaround in the policy of the dictatorship, which resulted in exposing the Saharan people to an increasingly intense genocide, repeatedly denounced by the last secretary general of the government of the Sahara, Col Rodriguez de Viguri?

[Answer] During that brief but very intense period in which the about-face took place, certain opposing Spanish capitalist interests, which clashed on the Sahara question, behaved in a fundamental way. Some, those represented by the pro-American "lobby" (pressure group), which is a more exact description than "pro-Moroccan," behind which was the Fierro group, the Iberian Bank--are a group which, not only through economic pressure, but through elements introduced in the last government of the dictatorship, promoted the defense of the Moroccan cause. On the other side was the group represented by Lopez Bravo, which was much more inclined toward an understanding with Algeria. It was a question, then, of a struggle between capitalist groups to benefit from the outcome of that colonial situation, and in the end, the pro-American or pro-Moroccan group won out.

[Question] Very closely related to this conflict of interests was there not also a serious fear on the part of the dictatorship that the Sahara question might influence domestic politics just as the colonial war did in Portugal?

[Answer] Obviously. I am sure, in addition, that there was not only fear, but a great panic throughout the Spanish ruling class, and that was a sensation which the entire country could observe, because in the spheres of power it was thought that a colonial war could not be sustained, with Franco dying in El Pardo Palace, without very serious consequences for the continuity of the regime. It was necessary also to look at this from the viewpoint that the Spanish ruling class has of the army as a force for public order and not for exterior defense or the defense of interests and commitments assumed by our country.

[Question] The solution to the situation was the Tripartite Agreements, signed in Madrid in November 1975. In your opinion, what did these agreements entail?

[Answer] On the part of the Spanish government, obviously, they signified violation of its international agreements and of its responsibility assumed in the most important international forum, the UN. But, in any case, they should not be considered an isolated case, because, although they are important, even more so are the bilateral agreements concluded between Spain and Morocco in December of the same year and in the first few months of 1976--agreements of a secret nature, but actually existing, and from which, based on their own statements, one may conclude that through them the ruling class of Spain has extracted payment from Morocco for the delivery of the Sahara.

[Question] In this sense, was it not shocking, to say the least, that the present minister of foreign relations, at that time undersecretary of the same department, should say that "Spain, on withdrawing, has ended any specific responsibility in regard to that territory ...?"

The Responsibility of Spain

[Answer] Indeed, yes. Here we are entering on shaky ground, since it is necessary to know what each individual understands as responsibility on the international level. However, there is no doubt that Spain had a responsibility to the Saharan people with which it did not comply. In the first place, because the theory of colonization is justified by the fact that the colonizing country will raise the degree of development of a people in order that they may become self-governing. This was not done by the dictatorship, and not only because it withdrew under the conditions mentioned, but because it remembered the Saharan people too late and did not sufficiently promote their development. In the second place, Spain shirked its moral responsibility, derived from an internationally held principle, in not recognizing the right of the Saharan people to self-determination, as well as the mandate of the UN, of which it is a member, in order that the preliminary meeting prior to the exercise of self-determination might take place....

[Question] Returning to the Tripartite Agreements, is it not true that the Spanish government can nullify them, as pointed out by the professor of international law, Julio Gonzalez Campos, in an article published several months ago in EL PAIS?

[Answer] The theory maintained by Gonzalez Campos, who maintained the most progressive argument on the Sahara before The Hague tribunal, is juridically correct, in that those agreements are contrary to the right of free self-determination, a "ius cogens" standard of international law. And such a nullification would have a kind of moral validity which could restore the Spanish image before the peoples of the Third World, which is now very deteriorated. However, I do not think that would be enough.

Agreements With Occupying Countries

[Question] What other steps, then, would the Spanish government have to take in this direction?

[Answer] In my opinion it would have to carry out a series of complementary activities which might give greater efficacy to this moral denunciation. The first would be to break all agreements with the countries occupying the Sahara which strengthen that occupation. I refer specifically to the economic and military aid which Spain is sending to Morocco and Mauritania--the sale of arms, which I believe was suspended a short time ago, although replacement parts continue to be sent for the military hardware already delivered--as well as all kinds of logistic aids, training of officers, etc., which is going on at this time. Along with this, the Spanish government would have to defend in all international forums the right of the Saharan

people to free self-determination--and not just verbally. Finally, another complementary attitude would be to strengthen the position of the Saharan people in material goods--not military aid--in order that they do not continue to perish from lack of food, medicines, and so forth.

[Question] Spokesmen for the leftist parties have spoken unanimously in similar terms in the Congress of Deputies. However, up to this time--and the intervention of the minister of foreign relations before the UN is too recent--it appears that the Suarez government has not taken up any of these suggestions....

[Answer] This brings us to a broader theme, which is to see whether the Suarez government has an overall foreign policy or only a few points which attract its attention in foreign policy. And I believe that it lacks that overall policy. But evidently what the Suarez government does indeed have is a strong desire to forget the Sahara, to say "the Sahara is finished; there are no longer any historic responsibilities, and Spain's mission is finished." This is totally false. My impression is that they want to shelve the Sahara question and look to the future, without taking into account that North Africa and relations with the countries of that area lie in that future.

[Question] In that context, what significance does the attitude of the government of France and its possible intervention in the conflict have?

[Answer] For years, France has been acting like a police state in French Africa, from Gabon to Chad, and the Giscard government is one of the firmest supporters the government of Morocco has abroad. In addition, it appears evident that the government of Hassan II is powerless to resolve the military situation created by the Polisario Front. In this context, the possible intervention of France must be viewed in the light of strengthening an authoritarian government in North Africa against a nonauthoritarian government such as that of Algeria. And, at the same time, the economic interests of France are involved in that area.

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WESTERN SAHARA

POLISARIO CLAIMS FRANCE BOMBED SAHARAN REFUGEE CAMPS

Madrid MUNDO OBRERO in Spanish 17-23 Nov 77 p 22

[Article by Alejandro Coca]

[Text] The Algerian press has given large headlines to the Declaration of Madrid signed Monday by the Spanish Left (see text, page 2 of this issue).

Two years after the signing of the tripartite Madrid agreement which provoked the war, a Spanish delegation was arriving in Algiers. It consisted of deputies Maria Dolores Calvet, a communist; Manuel Marin, a socialist and two representatives of the CCOO [Workers' Commissions] and the UGT [General Union of Workers], respectively. Accompanied by the symbolism of the time, they were bringing the solidarity of their organizations with the struggle of the people of the Sahara, with the young Arab Sahara Republic. "The Madrid agreements," Maria Dolores said on her arrival, "were signed behind the backs of the Spanish people." From Algiers the Spanish delegation hoped to visit the refugee camps where the women and children expelled from their land were living, but the seriousness of the conflict made this visit impossible at the last minute.

The "Right of Pursuit"

Hassan II threatened, several days ago, to invade Algerian territory, invoking the right of pursuit, of sad memory on the African continent, which still recalls how this assumed right served to justify innumerable colonial aggressions. But Hassan II is not a man of great personal decisions, but rather of spectacular acts which always mask interests and resolutions far from the straight and narrow.

Giscard, president of the French Republic, is talking of intervening directly in the conflict to rescue--observe the humanitarian intention here--six French subjects captured by the Polisario Front in hostile territory. With similar arguments they began the Vietnam War, among others. There, too, American troops began their entry to protect the interests of American subjects who, as in the case of the French, were aiding a puppet regime at war.

Bomb Refugee Camps

On Monday, 14 November, Salem Ould Salek, Saharan minister of information, declared: "We have the impression that the French government is using the conversations we are holding regarding the French prisoners to hide its true intentions and what it is actually preparing."

The Arab imagination is fertile, but it is not necessary to be a native of this land to glimpse the horror of a refugee camp bombarded by Mirage jets. Is this the plan of which the Saharan minister is speaking? The possibility is not discounted, at least by the leaders of the Polisario Front and by Algerian authorities. President Boumedienne, in his speech on 14 November, gave assurance, in the name of 18 million Algerians: "We are not planning to attack anybody, but we will defend our borders with all our forces," adding: "Official France is the instigator of the plots and threats against Algeria. We have supported, and we will continue to support the cause of the Saharan people."

As is well known, this solidarity with the Saharan forces, to which the forces of other progressive countries of the area, such as Libya, are also united, is vital for the Polisario in its struggle.

In order to understand the situation better, we interviewed Fadili Salel, member of the political bureau and president of the General Union of Saharan Workers, who told us, "The French government maintains strong military forces in Mauritania, whose army they are training. Mercenaries are being recruited in Paris. Mirage jets fly over our territory, and we have proof that they have participated in the bombing of one place where neither the Moroccan nor the Mauritanian armies had penetrated. If this is not intervention," emphasized Fadili Salel, "then those words have lost their meaning."

Regarding the consequences of the attacks on a refugee camp, the representative of the Polisario, who at no time denied this possibility, declared, "The refugee camps, as everyone knows, are on Algerian territory. Any aggression on the Algerian state would bring consequences which are difficult to foresee. Naturally," he continued, "France has Mirages, but it is not the only power which has this type of aircraft. If France intervenes, nobody could gauge and measure the limits of the conflict." He emphasized that the solidarity of the Algerian people has never been in doubt, nor do they at present believe that the Moroccan and French threats can diminish this capacity of solidarity with the Saharan people.

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